

# Renewable Energy Markets and Transmission

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# Renewable Energy Markets and Transmission

- Want to generate electricity
- Want someone to buy electricity
- Need to get electricity to market

# Laws and Policies that Affect Renewable Energy Projects

- PURPA
- RPS
- Transmission Access

# PURPA

- Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act
  - Federal law
  - Required state laws to implement
- Requires IOUs to purchase power from Qualifying Facilities (QF)
  - NorthWestern Energy
  - Montana Dakota Utilities
- <10 MW
- Avoided Cost
  - Set by Public Service Commission (PSC)
  - Coops may negotiate with producer

# Renewable Portfolio Standards

- 10%      2010 – 2014
- 15%      2015
- IOUs (Coops >5000 customers)
- Community Renewable Energy Projects
  - <25 MW



# Transmission Access

- Public utilities and power marketing agencies required to wheel electricity through their systems
- Rates are regulated
- Must have capacity available

# Renewable Resources

- Solar
  - PV
  - Thermal
- Wind
- Geothermal
- Tidal
- Biomass

# Benefits of Biomass

- Baseload
- Dispatchable
- Fuel cost
- Site considerations
- Utility access



# How to Sell Electricity

- Qualifying Facility
  - <10 MW
  - Rate set by PSC
- Power Purchase Agreement
  - No size limitation
  - Negotiate rate with buyer
  - Identify route

# Getting Power to Market

- Transmission
  - Control Areas
  - Capacity
  - Access
  - Studies

# Glass Half Full?

- Good time for biomass
  - Resources
  - Fuel
  - Interest
  - Need